THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A proposal regarding renaming of new railway station Chhanera as "Naya Harsood Railway Station" was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) As per the extant procedure, renaming of the station is done by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on the recommendation of the State Government. Ministry of Railways will take appropriate action as and when the approval of Ministry of Home Affairs is received.

Travelling in AC coaches at the cost of sleeper class

†631. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide an opportunity of travelling in A.C. coach to passengers at the cost of sleeper class;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the details of profit and loss which would be incurred by railways by introducing this scheme; and

(d) by when the scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) The scheme for upgradation of passengers against the vacant accommodation available in Upper Class is under examination, consistent with the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

(b) and (c) Details of the scheme are yet to be finalised.

(d) Implementation Schedule will be decided only after the scheme is approved.

Freight Authority

†632. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a tribunal named Freight Authority;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this tribunal would be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Checking the passengers without valid ticket

†633. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special squads of railways have carried out special checking to apprehend the passengers travelling without valid ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

(b) the number of passengers apprehended from January, 2001 till date who were found without ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this checking shows that many officers of Railways are involved in this illegal activity and if so, the action taken by Government against them; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to see that travelling without ticket is controlled and the responsibility of officers is also fixed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No separate statistics regarding the checks conducted by the special squads is maintained. During the period April, 2001 to May, 2005, 78,050 lakh persons were apprehended travelling without ticket/with irregular ticket including unbooked luggage.

(c) As and when any Railway Officer/Staff is found involved in any illegal activities, suitable action is taken against him as per rules.

(d) Besides regular checks some measures are taken, like—

(i) The minimum penalty for ticketless/irregular travel has been increased to Rs.250/- from Rs.50/-

(ii) Special checks are conducted in association with Police and Railway Magistrates.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.